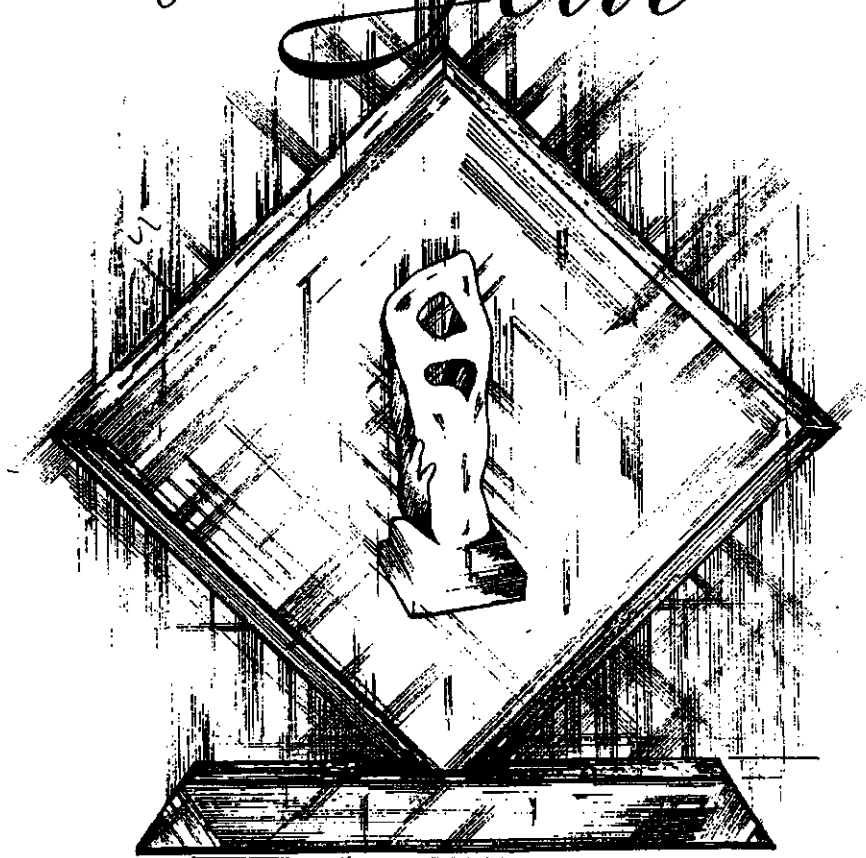


# 2003 *Volunteers of the Year*



The Volunteers of the Year awards are based on a sculpture by artist Ralph Hurst, who symbolized the spirit of volunteerism in a graceful alabaster and marble sculpture.

## *25<sup>th</sup> Annual Recognition Banquet*

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### **TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT**

**One Tech Place** - William Chamberlain is representing OneTechPlace, which was nominated by Tiffany Givens, the partner coordinator for Leonard Wesson Elementary School. Last year OneTechPlace gave boxes of food, grocery store gift certificates, and six new computers, printers and developmentally appropriate software for Wesson families in need of home computers. The company's staff spent time at the school mentoring and helping in classrooms and the computer lab. When OneTechPlace first partnered with Wesson two and a half years ago, they committed to doing more for Wesson students each year. No one at Wesson foresaw that their involvement would grow so powerfully in such a short time!



**Sun Coast Electric** - Tracy and Robin Lee are representing Sun Coast Electric, which was nominated by Sue Lelli, the partner coordinator for Deerlake Middle School. Before the school year even began, Sun Coast Electric organized a group of students to raise money for school supplies and clothing so that needy children could start the year off well. As cold weather set in, they gathered donations of warm coats. Sun Coast Electric has felt so strongly about helping needy students at Deerlake that they are spearheading a new Special Needs committee at the school that will help those in need on an ongoing basis. In all their efforts, they make a point to teach the students the importance of giving..



## CIVIC SERVICES

**Dorothy Edwards** - was nominated by Diane Brown of Gretchen Everhart School. Dorothy helped establish a "The Little Buddy Foundation" to help meet the needs of the school's students with special needs. She also brought together students, staff, and her garden club to create new landscaping and wheelchair accessible gardens at the school. Her nominator said, "Involvement in these projects gives our students valuable experience in associating with people in the community.... Mrs. Edwards has accumulated a lot of 'sweat equity' in all the hours she has spent writing grants, designing, planting and maintaining Everhart gardens. Our grants were funded, our gardens flourish, and our students are the big winners."



★ **Amanda Phillips** - was nominated by Jeri Bush of VolunteerLEON. As this volunteer center's special events coordinator, Amanda wrote grants to fund volunteering events and developed a database for online volunteer matching. She coordinated the Martin Luther King Day of Service for the Youth Corps; Make a Difference Day Tallahassee!; Health and Safety Fair for Kids; National Youth Service Day; Unity in the Spirit of American/National Ghandi Day of Service; and the Leon County Volunteer Firefighter of the Year Event. Through her leadership, volunteers built wheelchair ramps and houses, gave birthday parties for children in shelters, renovated playgrounds, did yard work for the elderly, and more! Her nominator said, "Amanda's service ethic is inspirational to all who come in contact with her."



**Leslie Rupp** - has been a volunteer at the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library for 12 years. She established the "Tidal Wave" Used Book Sale; transformed the FriendShop into a free, comfortable reading area; and has been responsible for bringing many famous authors to Tallahassee to speak. Her nominator Laura Rogers said, "The Library relies heavily on additional funding for books, services and volunteer support from the Friends. The direct impact from Leslie's services with the Friends can be seen on the bookshelves ... and the faces of the children."

